



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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December 5, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF FUNDING FOR
SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Authorize the Chief Engineer, or his designee, of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to provide \$150,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority as the County's share of funding the second phase of research and technical data and fiscal analysis to determine the feasibility of developing and implementing a stable and long-term funding mechanism for surface water quality improvements in the County of Los Angeles.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

At its meeting held on September 13, 2005, the Board unanimously approved a Motion by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky that the Chief Administrative Officer with assistance from the Director of Public Works, County Counsel, and other appropriate County departments prepare a report to the Board with recommendations on how best to implement a stable and long-term regional funding mechanism that would finance the construction, operation, and maintenance of local and regional projects that provide surface water quality improvements.

In response to that Motion on January 26, 2006, the report titled Report on a Stable and Long-Term Surface Water Quality Funding Mechanism was submitted to the Board. The report presents activities and concepts being considered in developing a stable and long-term funding plan.

Comprehensive research and technical analysis is necessary to determine the feasibility of developing and implementing a stable and long-term funding mechanism(s) for surface water quality improvements. On June 20, 2006, your Board authorized the Flood Control District to expend \$55,000 for the County's share of funding the first phase of research and technical analysis performed by a consulting firm currently under contract to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The first phase included conducting focus groups, surveys, extensive research on parcels located in the County, and evaluation of potential projects and associated costs.

At this time, more detailed research, data processing and synthesis, and fiscal analysis are necessary to evaluate the County's over two million parcels; develop required revenue generation formulas and funding allocations; quantify regional capital and operational solutions to addressing surface water pollution in the County; conduct required assessment engineering; evaluate property owner perceptions related to urban and stormwater runoff; assess the fiscal needs of cities in the County related to surface water quality; and develop appropriate policy, strategy, and fiscal recommendations for further action. The \$150,000 payment to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority represents the Flood Control District's share of the \$600,000 total cost of this second phase of additional research and analysis. Other agencies' contributions are as follows: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, \$150,000; Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, \$150,000; Coastal Conservancy, \$100,000; Trust for Public Land, \$30,000; private funds, \$20,000.

The consulting firm under contract with Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will be expected to directly advise the District, County departments, the Board, and other public agencies or policymakers as applicable on the results of its research and analysis.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goals of Fiscal Responsibility and Community Service as it will provide financial resources leveraged by other entities to conduct comprehensive research and analysis to determine the feasibility to fund surface water quality improvements through a stable and long-term funding mechanism(s).

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FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total project cost of the second phase of research and analysis is \$600,000. Funding for \$150,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Flood Control District Fund budget. The remaining \$450,000 will be funded by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, \$150,000; Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, \$150,000; Coastal Conservancy, \$100,000; Trust for Public Land, \$30,000; and private funds, \$20,000.

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wolfe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

RP:ad

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel